

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 remain in the application, minor editorial amendments having been made.

Responsive to the restriction requirement stated in the Office action, applicants elect Group I, claims 1-5, with traverse.

Claims 1-5 are directed to a multimedia message service, and claims 9 and 10 are directed to a multimedia message service system. Claim 1 states that the message includes a stamp whose validity has been verified by the multimedia message service center, and claim 10 describes that the multimedia message service center is adapted to verify the validity of the stamp. Claim 10 recites a stamp provider, but that is inherent in a service that uses stamps as recited in claim 1. Thus, it is not possible for the system of claim 10 to not include the service of claim 1, and it is not possible for a service as in claim 1 to be implemented without a system as in claim 10. If indeed claims 1 and 10 are subcombinations, it is clear that they do overlap in scope and are obvious variants. 9 It is difficult to see how claim 10 is useful other than in a service as recited in claim 1. The examiner has alleged separate utilities, but has simply repeated the subject matter of the preamble of each claim and then summarily concluded that these are separate utilities. In truth, the subject matter of claim 1 has no use except for in connection with a system of claim 10, and the system of claim 10 has no use except in connection with the service of claim 1.

Claims 6-9, those claims are directed to a method which cannot be practiced except in connection with a service as claimed in claim 1 and in connection with a system as claimed in claim 10.

Amendment
Appl. No. 10/800,670

Accordingly, the restrictions requirement is traversed, and examination of all claims is believed in order and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/DJCushing/
David J. Cushing
Registration No. 28,703

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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